

O I P E
MAY 27 2004
PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

FIG. 1

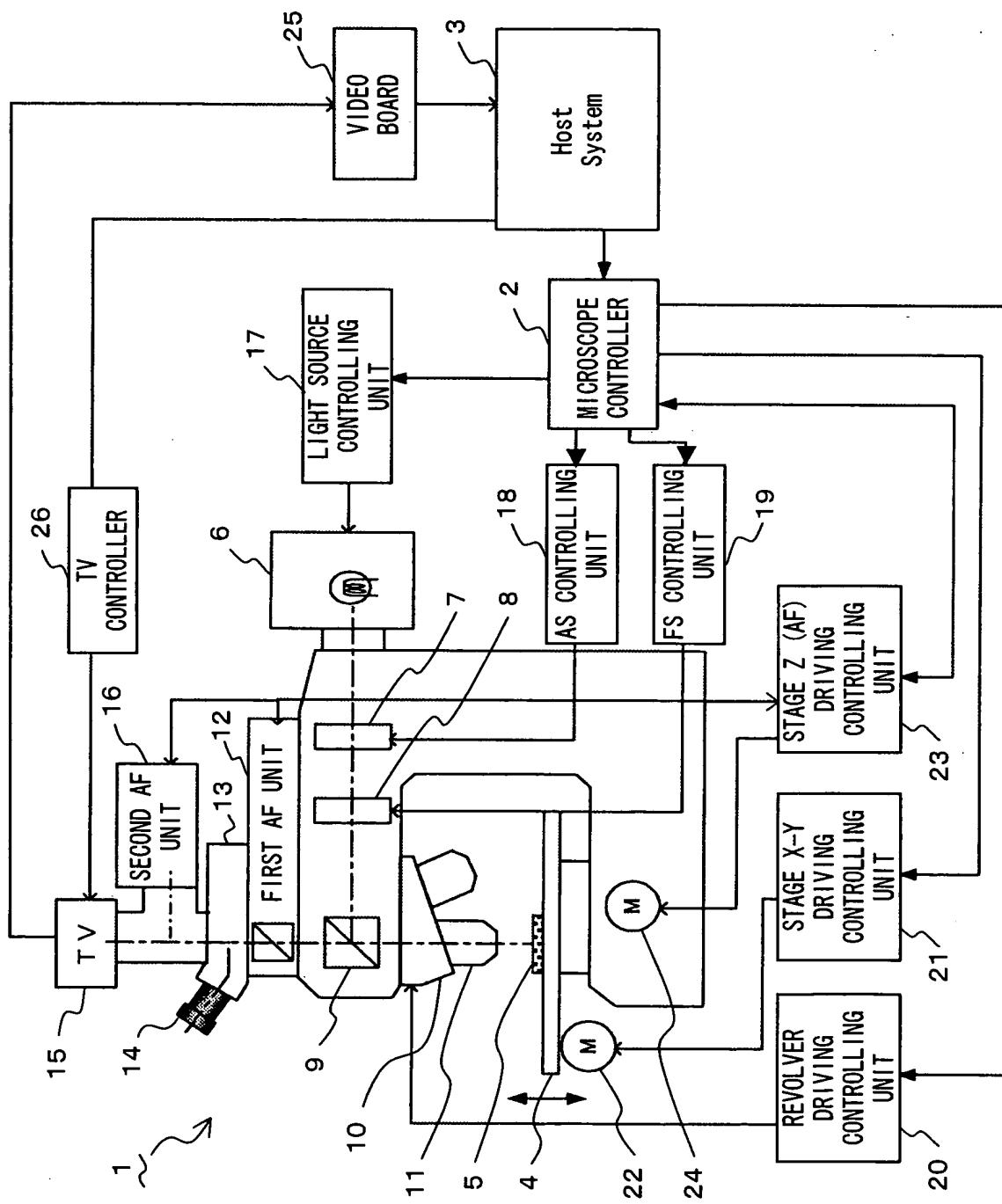
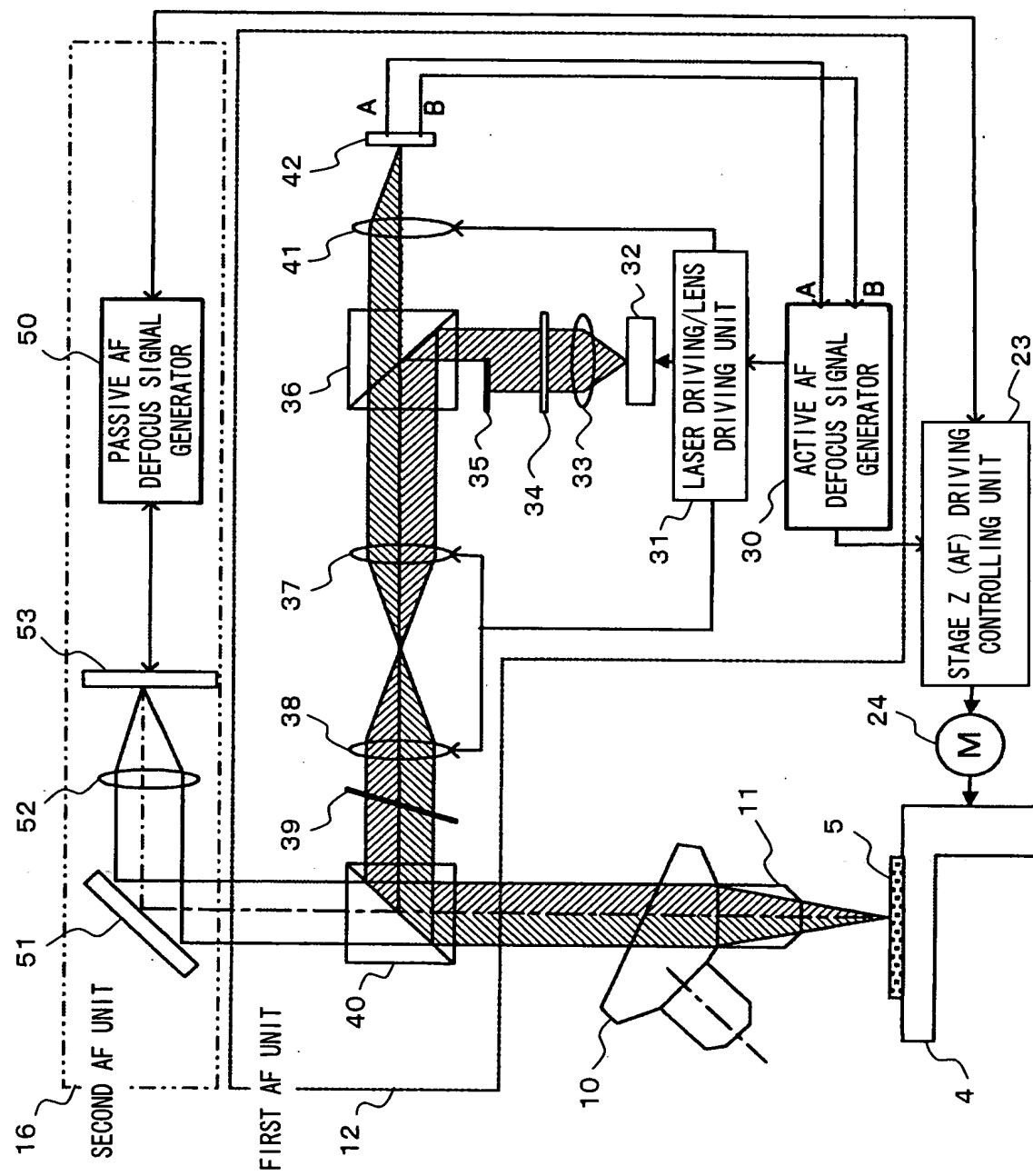
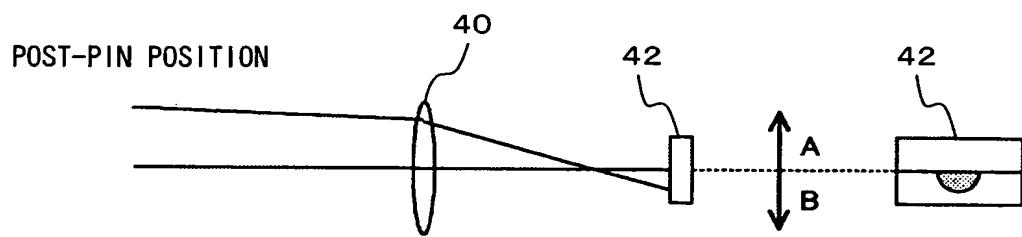
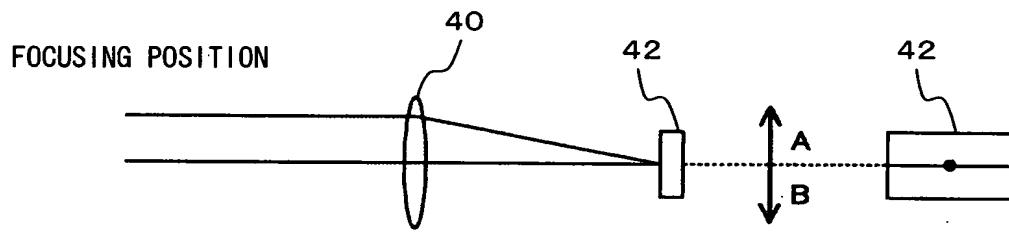


FIG. 2

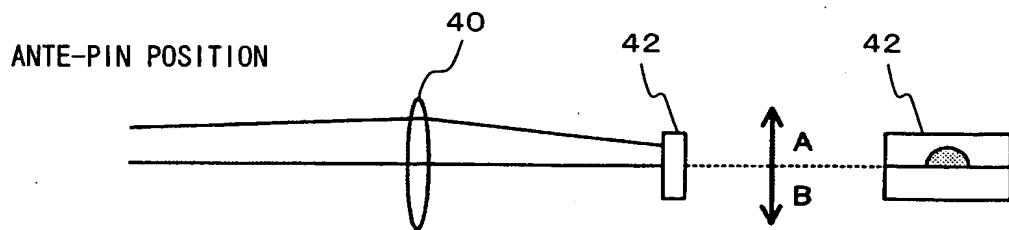




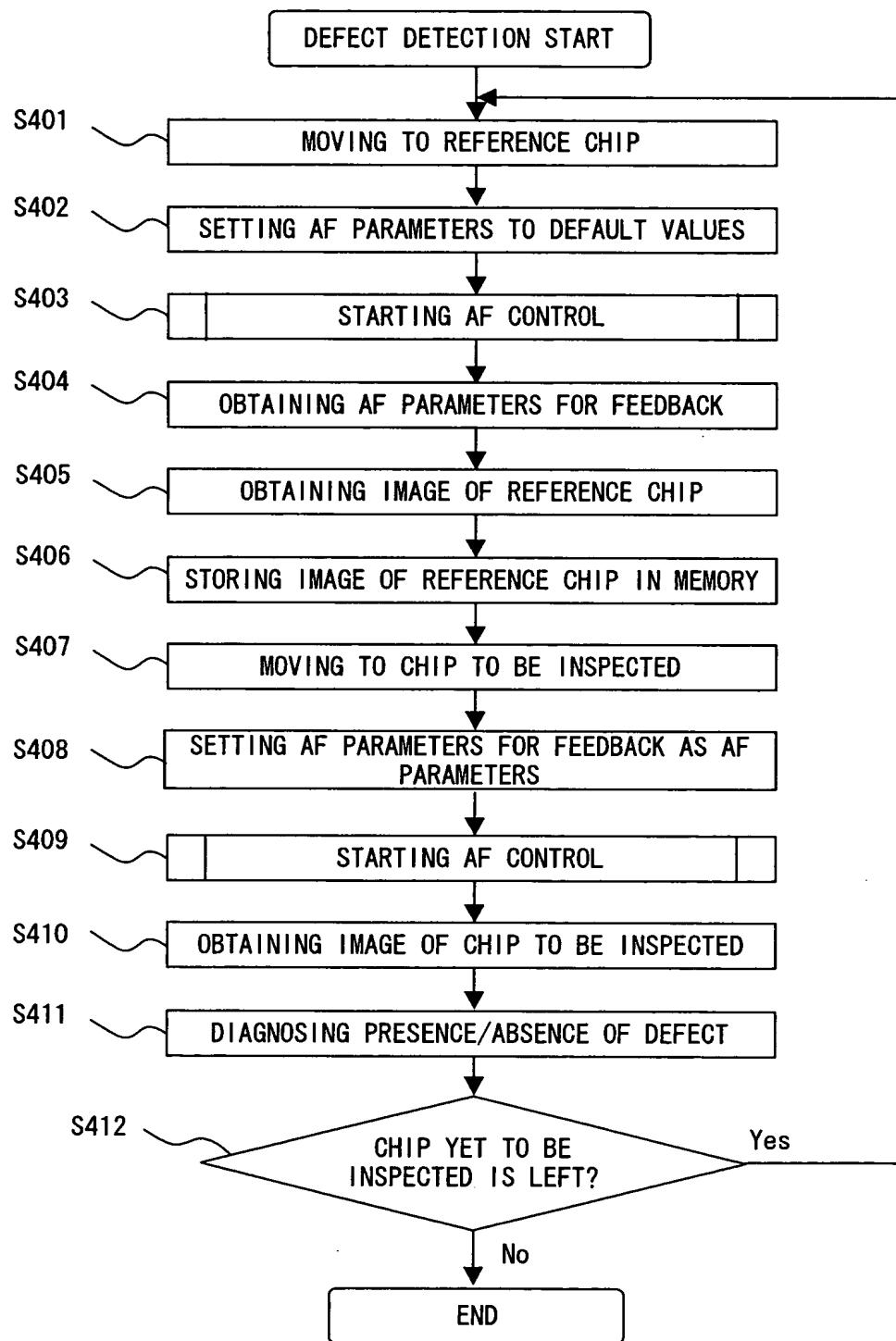
F I G. 3 A



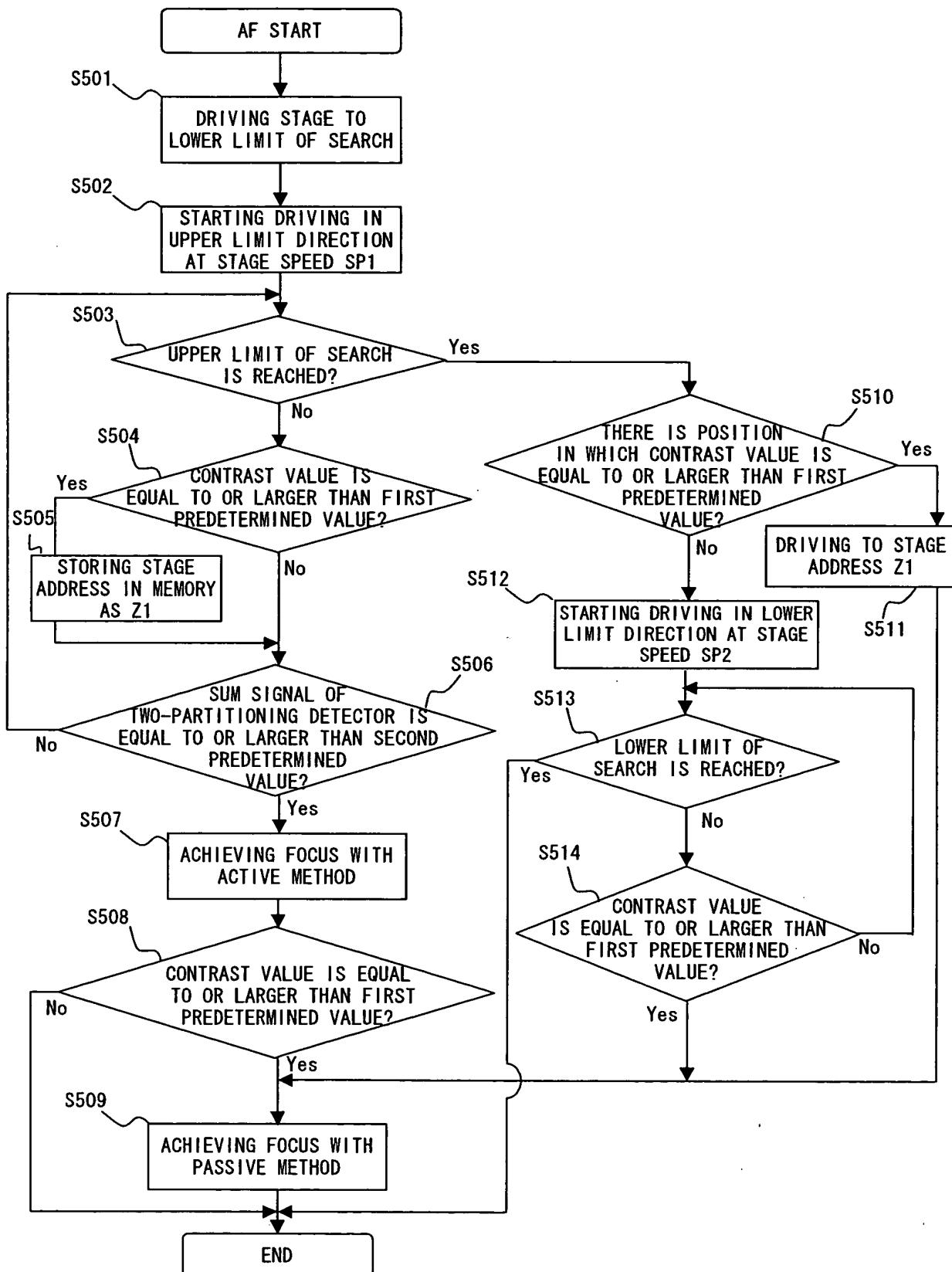
F I G. 3 B



F I G. 3 C



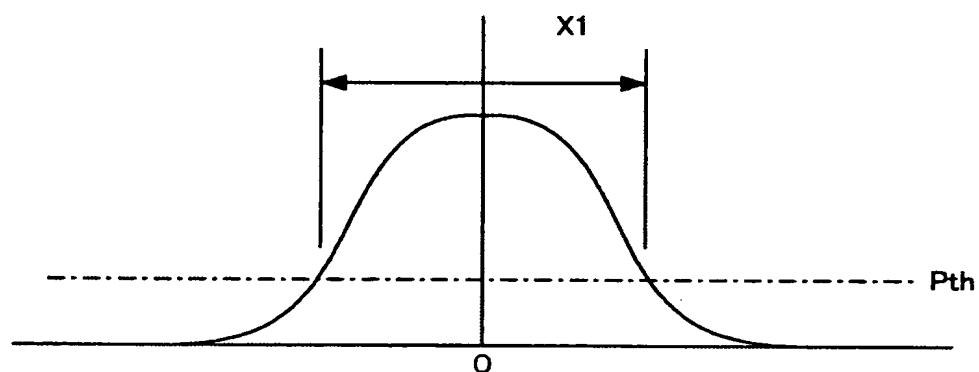
F I G . 4



F I G. 5

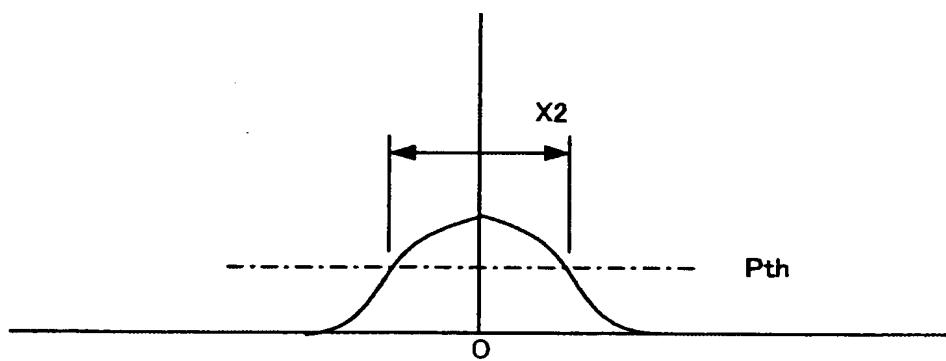
	PARAMETER	CONTENTS	EFFECT
1	ACTIVE AF STAGE SPEED	STAGE SPEED WHEN SAMPLE IS SEARCHED WITH ACTIVE AF	IMPROVES FOCUSING SPEED
2	SEARCH RANGE	SEARCH RANGE OF SAMPLE IN Z DIRECTION OF STAGE	IMPROVES FOCUSING SPEED
3	SAMPLE SEARCH AF METHOD	AF METHOD WHEN SAMPLE IS SEARCHED	IMPROVES FOCUSING SPEED
4	PASSIVE AF STAGE SPEED	STAGE SPEED WHEN SAMPLE IS SEARCHED WITH PASSIVE AF	IMPROVES FOCUSING SPEED
5	ACTIVE AF OFFSET AMOUNT	AF OFFSET AMOUNT AT TIME OF ACTIVE AF	IMPROVES FOCUSING ACCURACY
6	PASSIVE AF CONTRAST THRESHOLD VALUE	CONTRAST THRESHOLD VALUE WITH WHICH PRESENCE/ABSENCE OF CONTRAST IS DETECTED	IMPROVES FOCUSING ACCURACY

F I G. 6



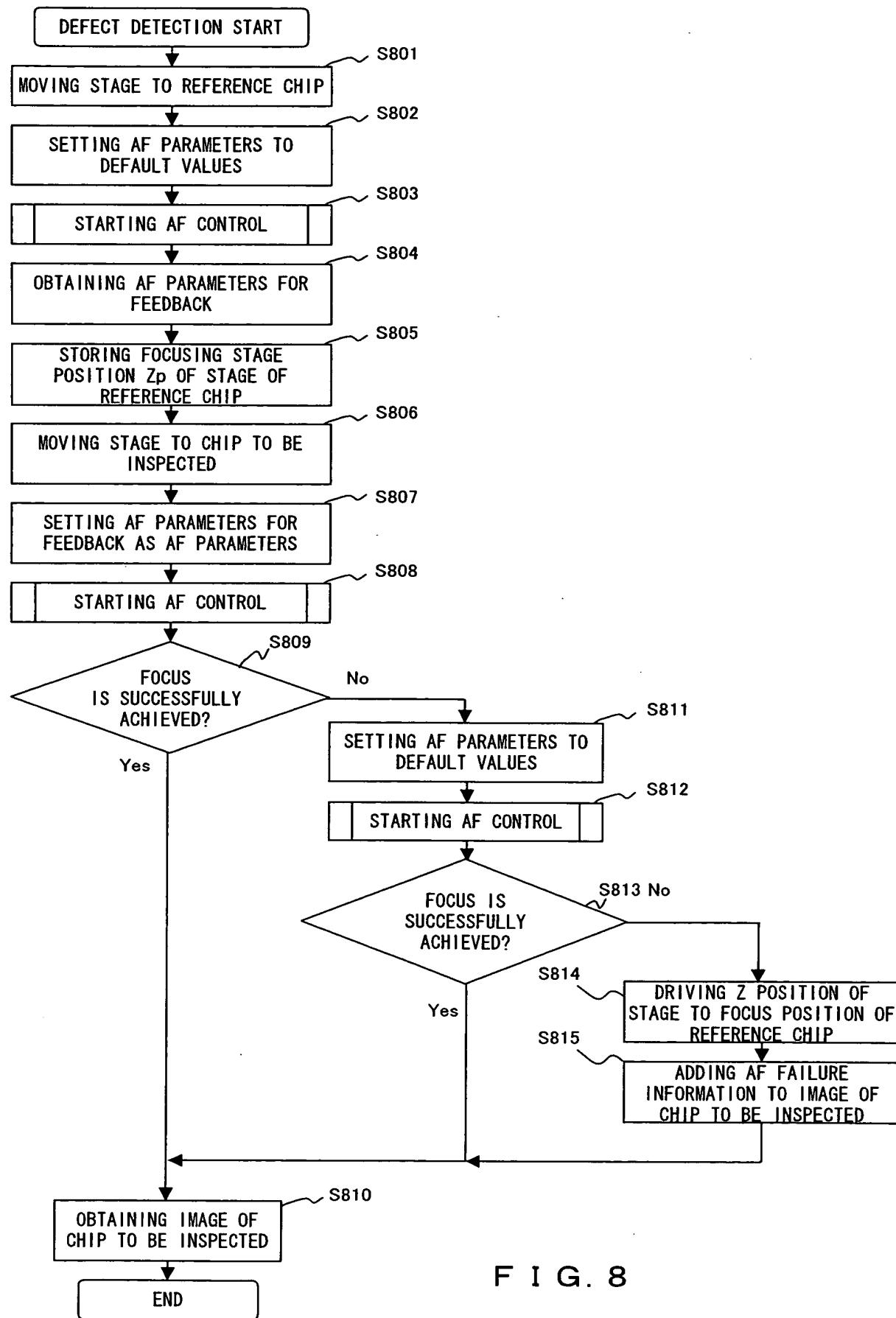
WHEN REFLECTANCE OF SAMPLE IS HIGH

F I G. 7 A

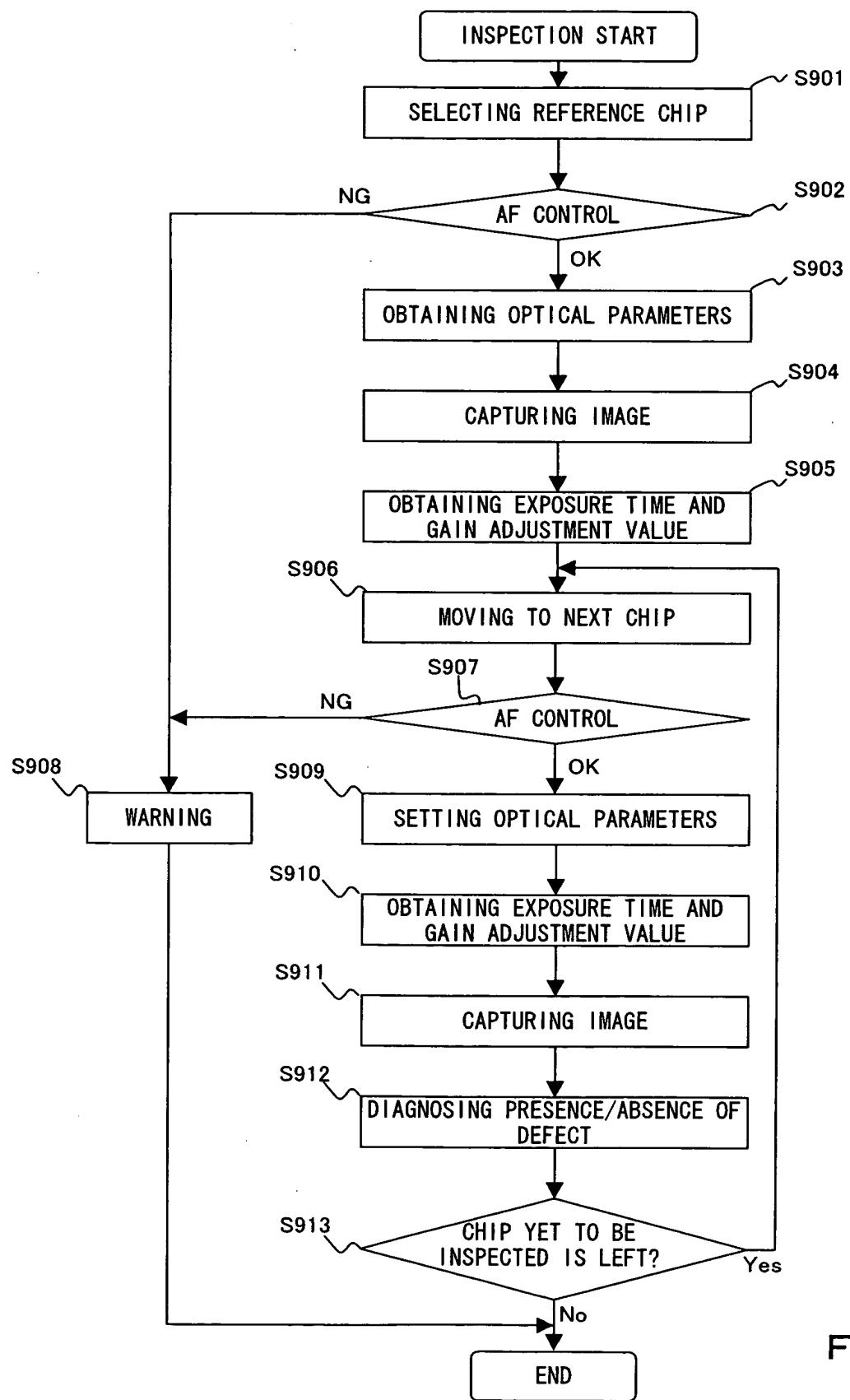


WHEN REFLECTANCE OF SAMPLE IS LOW

F I G. 7 B



F I G . 8



F I G. 9